

sessed by the creeping stems of these three species, it may well be that a sufficiently old plant might be found at some distance from its point of origin; but the present writer cannot recall having seen specimens of any of the three (with the possible exception of *L. obscurum*) in really swampy places. Perhaps the readers of the JOURNAL can throw light on the habitat of these plants, as they did on that of *Ophioglossum*; they are hereby invited to do it.²

Dr. Otto Degener reports four other stations in Massachusetts for prothallia of "*L. complanatum*" and *L. obscurum*, var. *dendroideum*. The latter were found in great numbers—three hundred in one small area—and are described in detail and illustrated. Various interesting facts about the prothallia of both are recorded. Sporelings, for instance, are produced equally well whether the surface of the prothallium which bears the reproductive organs is vertical or horizontal, or, in the latter case, on the upper or under side. Young plants of *L. complanatum* [var. *flabelliforme*] have the leaves scale-like at first, then awl-shaped, up to 4 mm. long, and arranged in whorls of three about 2 mm apart. Only after the stem has begun to branch do the leaves become four-ranked and the lateral ones developed so as to give the characteristic flattened effect to the branches.³

C. A. W.

FRAGRANT MASSACHUSETTS FERN.—Last August, while on a visit to Marion, Mass., at the head of Buzzard's Bay, I passed one day a bit of woodland, of mixed trees, where, as far as the eye could reach, the underbrush had

² Stokey, Alma G., and Starr, Anna. M. *Lycopodium* prothallia in western Massachusetts. *Bot. Gaz.* 77: 80–88. March, 1924.

³ Degener, Otto. Four new stations of *Lycopodium* prothallia. *Bot. Gaz.* 77: 89–95. Pls. XI–XIII, 2 figs. March, 1924.

been entirely supplanted by a luxuriant growth of cinnamon fern (*Osmunda cinnamomea*). Nestling under the larger fronds I noticed some much smaller ones which superficially resembled the half-grown leaves of the sensitive fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*). I was quickly over the low stone wall which separated the wood from the road, and a short search revealed several plants with long, slender, contracted fertile fronds which confirmed my hope that I had at last found the net-veined chain fern (*Woodwardia areolata*) with which I was until now familiar only through pressed specimens.

Nearby and scattered through the wood I found numerous plants of the Massachusetts fern (*Aspidium simulatum*) fronds of which and of other ferns I gathered to place in water, and that evening my room was filled with a delicate, spicy fragrance. Wishing to make certain that this fragrance emanated from the Massachusetts fern, I returned to the wood a few days later and gathered a quantity of it, noticing as I did so that almost every frond was delicately sweet, and this, it seemed to me, was particularly noticeable in the immature fertile fronds. The ground in which they grew, though not swampy, was so soft and spongy with moss and partly decayed pine needles that several roots were easily pulled up, and these I took with me later to Maine and planted them there in a mixed fern bed, where, if they live, they will be under observation.

As Mr. Weatherby tells me that a fragrant form of the Massachusetts fern seems not hitherto to have been reported, I am glad to pass on this bit of information to the readers of the FERN JOURNAL.—F. E. CORNE, *Cambridge, Mass.*

THE SPINULOSE FERNS OF TIM POND, MAINE.—The third to the twelfth, inclusive, of September, 1924, were